



Free social media security class offered for adults

Maj. Adam Flowers of Canadian County Sheriff's office will once again return to the county children's justice center to present information to parents about social media pitfalls – and how they can help their children avoid them.

"Parents should be especially aware of what their child is doing on social media - that's really the place where they're seeing a lot of cases involving child predators happen," Flowers said. "And it is tough for lawmakers to keep up on changing trends."

That's why Flowers'

program is so important and is something that has been well-attended for years, officials said. The next session is set for 6:30 p.m. March 29 at Gary E. Miller Canadian County Children's Justice Center.

"This is a way to help educate the community about awareness and safety measures and includes firsthand stories of crimes committed here in Canadian County," Flowers said.

Social media trends change every day and communication streams like Snapchat and Tik Tok have become a place

predators are lurking, waiting and watching for young adults to follow the latest Tik Tok challenges. But TikTok and Snapchat are far from the only challenges facing both families and law enforcement. Canadian County investigators currently monitor several other platforms, including Craigslist, Facebook; Glyph; Google Hangouts; Grindr; Kik; Line; Teen Chat; Telegram; Tiger Text; Tinder; Twitter; Twitch; Viber; Voxer; What's App; and Xbox gamer forums.

See Class, Page 5A



Maj. Adam Flowers of Canadian County Sheriff's office will return to the county children's justice center for a March 29 program for adults, aimed at helping them keep their children safe online. (File photo)

Geiger takes home top music honors

Piedmont Middle School student Autumn Geiger spent her spring break competing in Tennessee at the North American Country Music Association International competition.

At the conclusion, the seventh grader walked away with top honors - Vocalist of the Year and Entertainer of the Year – Youth in the Traditional Country category.

It was Geiger's second time participating in the competition and her second time winning those categories, a feat she first accomplished in 2019.

"I appreciate everyone's support during the competition," Geiger said. "My teachers and friends have been cheering me on all the way. I was eager to get back at

See Geiger, Page 4A



Geiger will perform at The Oklahoma Rodeo Opry on Saturday, April 2nd. (Photo Provided)



'I wanna dance with somebody'

Jacob Harris and Miki Booth put the 'dance' into 'I Wanna Dance' – Piedmont junior varsity's 2022 winter guard program. The pair and the rest of their team have been a crowd favorite throughout the season. See a full recap of the event on Page 6A of this edition. (Photo by Traci Chapman)

Rising fuel prices impact county

Contractor asks commissioners to consider fuel surcharge clause

By Conrad Dudderar
Staff Writer

Rising fuel costs have prompted a Canadian County contractor to ask that county commissioners add a fuel surcharge clause to six-month bid proposals.

Chad Brown of Brown Transportation said he wanted to "open up the idea" at the commissioners' March 21st weekly meeting.

The Ardmore-based company, which has five locations, hauls rock to road project sites in Canadian County.

"Fuel for any trucking company is a major expense," Brown explained. "When fuel goes up as we've seen here recently in the last week-and-a-half – \$1.50 a gallon – it does affect our operating cost."

And it's more than just fuel prices affecting trucking companies, which also have seen increases in the prices of tires and other parts for their vehicle fleets.

Rock hauling for the county commissioners is part of Canadian County's six-month bid process. Normally, the

fuel cost stays about the same over each six-month period.

"So, we calculate that into any bid that we do," Brown told the three commissioners.

"But when you have times like we have now, that are just extraordinary, I think it would benefit the county to have that – where we have a base rate and a certain clause in there that will adjust for that (fuel) expense."

District 3 Canadian County Commissioner Jack Stewart said he could support having a

fuel surcharge clause – but only if "it's allowed by statute at the county level."

"I totally agree, we need to look at something like that," Stewart said. "The concept has been done with, at least, hot-mix asphalt. I wasn't aware of the hauling cost."

Brown Transportation has fuel surcharge addendums to contracts with many of its other customers, including all highway projects for the Oklahoma Department

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Candidate filing period scheduled for April 13-15

By Traci Chapman
Managing Editor

Candidate filing packets are now online for individuals who wish to run for county, judicial, district attorney, state or federal 2022 races.

April 13 through April 15 are the scheduled candidate filing dates for those types of offices up for election in 2022. Completed packets must be submitted during those dates; anyone wishing to submit documentation for federal, state, legislative, judicial or district attorney offices are required to file candidacy paperwork with the Secretary of the Oklahoma State Election Board, located at the state capitol; Anyone submitting candidacy applications for county offices must do so with their county election board, Canadian County Election Board clerk Jennifer Schweitzer said Monday.

Filing hours at both locations were designated from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 13 through 15, officials said.

The state election board office is located at 2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Room G28 in Oklahoma City; Canadian County Election Board is located at 200 S. Bickford Ave. in El Reno.

Filing packets contain a host of information for would-be candidates, including filing instructions, qualifications, fee and date and deadline information, as well as the declaration of candidacy

that must be submitted to the election board. Declarations must be signed and notarized to be valid.

Information concerning filing fees specific to certain offices can be found on the state election board office website at <https://oklahoma.gov/elections/candidates/2022-candidate-filing-information.html>; all fees must be paid by cashier's or certified check made payable to "secretary of the state election board" or "secretary of the county election board," as appropriate, officials said.

Candidate filing packets can be found on the state election board website at <https://oklahoma.gov/elections/candidates/2022-candidate-filing-information.html>. Contact information for that office may also be found online at <https://oklahoma.gov/elections/about-us/contact-us.html>.

UPCOMING 2022 ELECTION DATES

Candidate filing for an April 5 general election for school board candidates was held in December. In Yukon, incumbent Leonard Wells will face challenger Paul Gerber for the Office No. 2 Board of Education seat during that April election.

A June 28 primary will feature federal, state, judicial and county races. Last day to register to vote in that election is June 3 and deadline to request an absentee ballot is June 13. Early voting will be held Thursday, June 23

and Friday, June 24 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 25.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on election day, Tuesday, June 28.

For any contests that require a runoff election, that was scheduled to be held Tuesday, Aug. 23 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Last day to register for that election is July 29; absentee ballots must be requested by 5 p.m. Aug. 8, election board officials said.

Early voting for the runoff is set for Thursday and Friday Aug. 18 and Aug. 19, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 20, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The final election of 2022 is the Nov. 8 general election.

Anyone wishing to register to vote for that election must do so by Oct. 14 and request an absentee ballot by 5 p.m. Oct. 24. Early voting will include an extra day – Wednesday, Nov. 2. Like Thursday and Friday early voting for the general election, that will be available each day from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5.

PARTY AFFILIATION CHANGE DEADLINE IS MARCH 31

Any voters wishing to change party affiliation before the bulk of 2022 elections must do so before March 31.

Canadian County Election Board Secretary



Wanda Arnold said the change may be completed online or by submitting a new voter registration application to the election board office.

No party changes are allowed between April 1 and Aug. 31 during even-numbered years, pursuant to state statute.

"If we receive your request after March 31, we are required by law to hold that request and process it in September," Arnold said.

Oklahoma has three recognized parties: Democratic, Republican and Libertarian.

In Oklahoma, vot-

ers must be a registered member of a party in order to vote in that party's primary election. Independents are permitted to participate in a primary election only if a party officially requests its elections be opened to Independent voters.

Only Oklahoma's Democratic Party allows registered Independents to cast a vote in its primary elections. Republican and Libertarian registered voters only may cast a vote in those parties' primary elections in Oklahoma.

All registered voters, regardless of political af-

filiation, can vote for any candidate during a general election.

Party affiliation can be changed on the Oklahoma State Election Board Oklahoma Voter Portal, located online at <https://www.oklahoma.gov/elections/ovp>;

MORE INFORMATION

More information about voting requirements, which races a particular voter may cast a ballot in, sample ballots in much more is available on the state election board website, located at <https://oklahoma.gov/elections.html>

Surcharge

From Page 1A

of Transportation, Brown said.

"Those projects last over a long period of time, and we have to adjust for that for our operating cost," Brown said.

Brown also has a fuel surcharge clause in its

contract with the City of Edmond.

A flexible scale allows the company to bill weekly based on the Midwest regional fuel price average.

This way, customers benefit when fuel costs decrease within a six-month bid period, Brown said.

'OPEN UP THE DISCUSSION'

Brown left with the three-member board copies of fuel surcharge clauses his company uses with its other clients.

"I just want to open up the discussion for the commission here to see if that's even possible," he said.

Canadian County Commissioners agreed to review the documents

and consider making a change to its six-month bid procedures. No action was taken at the March 21st meeting.

The commissioners would determine where to set the benchmark price in any fuel surface clause.

"We set ours at a \$3 level typically," Brown explained. "And we do 1% for every 5 cents above \$3. That's been our

(procedure) that we adopted years ago.

"You could adopt it at a \$4 fuel surcharge, and above that. We would adjust our ton-mile rate accordingly, based on wherever your fuel surcharge would be."

With fuel costs increasing so much, Brown said the "last thing we want to do" when hauling materials is to operate at a loss just to serve Canadian County.

"I don't think the county wants that," he



Hader



Stewart

emphasized. "We don't want that."

As busy as Brown Transportation will be for the rest of 2022, Brown noted "we have to operate at a profit too."

All county commissioners are faced with the impact that increased fuel prices have on materials, equipment and vehicle costs – for the county and its contractors.

"We understand the challenges for both sides of this," District 1 Commissioner Marc Hader said.

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phil@wschristianchurch.org

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Pandemic fraud leads to federal task force

Residents, businesses asked to report alleged related activity

With the novel coronavirus pandemic came instances of fraud – some significant – an occurrence that has led to the announcement of a new task force aimed at investigating and prosecuting those who perpetrated it.

U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma Robert Troester said Tuesday his office would join forces with the Office of the Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery to “further strengthen and enhance the already existing cooperative efforts to investigate and prosecute fraud involving loans, loan guarantees and other relief made by the Secretary of the Treasury under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020, which included over \$2 trillion in emergency financial assistance designed to provide immediate help for American businesses and individuals.”

Both federal and state officials reported since COVID-19 was first diagnosed in Oklahoma in March 2020 several issues with fraud – from an “unprecedented” among of false unem-



More information is also available on the U.S. Department of Justice Coronavirus response page, which includes extensive resources concerning COVID-19 fraud.

ployment claims filed against businesses, including those located in Canadian County – to individuals and entities who obtained loans and grants developed to keep businesses afloat as the pandemic caused at times wide-scale shutdowns.

“It is regrettable that the government relief programs provided by Congress to aid those in need, as a result of the pandemic, have been exploited by fraud,” Troester said. “We have already been working

closely with SIGPR to address these fraudulent schemes. This partnership with SIGPR strengthens and enhances that ongoing effort.”

Troester and Special Investigator General Brian Miller announced the partnership would be guided by a memorandum of understanding that helped coordinate efforts in several ways. That included seeking out and responding to CARES Act-related fraud – particularly organized criminal activity and those acts that affected

“federal money, vulnerable victims and fraud recidivists.”

The two federal agencies would also work together to facilitate the legal process, including the swift prosecution of related fraud, case intakes and their journey through the federal courts, specifically the Western District of Oklahoma.

Central Oklahoma prosecutors would also work with SIG investigators to attempt to uncover “larger schemes and related unlawful activity, as well as

attempting to “deter future CARES Act funding fraud through an enhanced awareness of criminal and civil penalties and successful prosecution of individuals and companies involved in CARES Act related financial fraud.”

“The partnership will help ensure regular communication and coordination with regulators and law enforcement so that just results can be achieved through the strategic use of criminal and civil remedies to address fraudulent schemes,”

Troester said. Local residents and businesses are asked to assist the federal effort by reporting potential or believed pandemic-related fraudulent activity. That can be done by:

By calling the SIGPR hotline at (202) 927-7899;

By submitting an online complaint to SIGPR at <https://www.sigpr.gov/report-fraud-waste-abuse/reporting-hotline-complaint>;

By completing and submitting a SIGPR whistleblower complaint, found at <https://www.sigpr.gov/whistleblower-protection/submit-whistleblower-complaint> (federal laws protect federal employees, contractors, subcontractors, grantees, subgrantees, and personal services contractors from retaliation for making a protected disclosure);

Call the National Center for Disaster Fraud hotline at (866)720-5721 or go online to <https://www.justice.gov/disaster-complaintform>; or

Filing a complaint with the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s internet crime complaint center, located online at <https://www.ic3.gov/>.

More information is also available on the U.S. Department of Justice Coronavirus response page, which includes extensive resources concerning COVID-19 fraud.

Search for ER football coach continues

While no names have been officially mentioned, El Reno Public Schools Superintendent Craig McVay said the district is “moving ahead” with a short list of candidates to fill its head football coaching vacancy.

“We are still interviewing and the process continues,” said McVay.

The vacancy was one of the items discussed in executive session by the El Reno School Board last week. No action was taken or discussion held on the matter once the board reconvened in open session.

“It’s an important position and we are looking to fill it with the best person we can. I’m pleased with the search so far,” said

school board president Dr. Dorrie Parrott, DVM.

Chuck Atchison, who had held the position for the past five seasons, resigned shortly after the end of the 2021 football campaign to take over as

the district’s head of operations.

The opening has generated interest in coaching circles but the process to replace Atchison has been slowed somewhat by outside forces.

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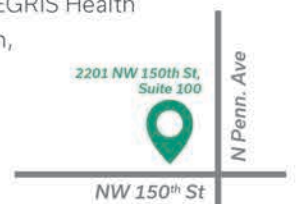
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The Chief's Briefs

Who and by What Means are Defendants Brought before the ICC?

By Chief Scott A. Singer



Scott A. Singer

This week we continue to examine the role of the ICC in the administration of justice as it relates to international crimes and criminals, committing heinous acts falling within the jurisdiction of the ICC against nation states, ethnic peoples, combatants and non-combatants alike.

However, unlike our national tribunals (municipal, district or appellate courts), those to be investigated and tried before the ICC become subject(s) for the ICC's jurisdiction by a somewhat different process. I'll note that while the process for international courts may appear similar in process, the manner by which international criminals are brought before the court for trial is marginally different and considerably more difficult due in large part to how these tyrants are made available for prosecution.

For instance, someone committing a crime in Oklahoma, and who is found in Oklahoma, most often will be arrested, taken before the court and provided with due process up to and through the court process. Should the court(s) of one state, county or municipal government charge a criminal, but be found in another jurisdiction, before they can begin the process of due process proceedings, issues of extradition (unless waived by the defendant) must be addressed in order to return them to the charging jurisdiction.

Whew, that's a long introduction, but as we've previously discussed what crimes the ICC has jurisdiction to prosecute, it's time to discuss whom and by what means persons are brought before the court and how they are held liable for their crimes. In other words, while the court has long-arm jurisdiction to prosecute individuals, by

what method(s) does the court exercise its authority? For instance, considering the current state of affairs of the Ukrainian peoples, certainly we can all agree that the crimes being committed in the name of the Russian hierarchy, constitute what any rational person would call war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide or crimes of aggression.

Historically, the ICC was born of treaties with a number of countries. As member nation states, the signatories weren't only subject to the jurisdiction of the ICC, but also had the status to make application to have potential violators investigated and/or brought before the court for trial and judgment. In the alternative, even non-party states could – through the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), be investigated, prosecuted and have a judgment rendered pursuant to Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

This bodes the question – what is Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter? According to the United Nations website, specifically the section dealing with the functions of the "Security Council," Chapter VII establishes a "framework" by which the UNSC can take enforcement action when the Council "determines the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression." Further, the Council may make recommendations to "resort

to non-military and military action to "maintain or restore international peace and security."

Additionally, Chapter VII contains the UNSC Articles (numbered 39 through 51) directing the Council to make determinations of violations, establish provisions to "prevent the aggravation of situations," establish measures that do not require the use of the military; establish procedures for the "Command and deployment of military forces" and other such rules, obligations and rights as established for the general good of member states and non-member states alike.

It should be noted at this point that the ICC may exercise jurisdiction in relation to the crimes as highlighted before, providing the crimes occurred "on or after 1 July 2002." While the court has been in existence since the Rome Statutes were adopted in 1998, the UNSC has been in effect since 1946. Therefore, both have a solid base to expand upon, and to address transgressions by malefactors such as are at work in the world today.

The UNSC while housed in several different countries since the time of its original formation, they are now headquartered at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. Of interest, is the requirement that a "representative of each of its members must be present at all times at the UN Headquarters so that the Security Council can meet at any time as the need arises."

Who comes under the authority of the ICC?

According to the ICC website, the Court may – "in its discretion exercise jurisdiction in situations where genocide (by definition is; the deliberate killing of a large number of people from a particular nation or ethnic group with the intent to obliterate that nation or group), crimes against humanity or war crimes" – again committed after 2002 and:

A "State Party" committed the crimes national, or in the territory of a "State Party," or in a State that has accepted the jurisdiction of the Court; or the crimes were referred to the ICC Prosecutor by the UNSC pursuant to a resolution

adopted under chapter VII of the UN charter.

Further, according to ICC information, as of 2018, in situations of aggression which would have appeared to have occurred – against member or non-member States – could be referred to the Court by the UNSC, again acting under Chapter VII, whether it involves States Parties or non-States Parties. This in effect gives the Court – once being given notice by resolution of the Security Council – broad ranging authority to investigate, prosecute, and punish those persons considered to be bad actors.

But this isn't the only means that such actors may come under the jurisdiction of the ICC. Prosecutors may initiate investigations either on their own initiative or at the request of a State Party. According to the ICC's information, the Prosecutor will determine if an act of aggression has occurred via the Security Council.

Barring a determination of such act(s) of aggression, the Prosecutor can within six (6) months of the initial notification the Prosecutor, proceed on their own to investigate potential crimes and if supported by the determinations of the investigation and authorized by the Pre-trial Division, the Prosecutor may investigate further – to determine the facts of the allegations.

It's noted that in such a situation as described above, "the Court shall not exercise its jurisdiction regarding a crime of aggression...committed by a national or on the territory of a State Party that has not ratified or accepted these amendments."

Next week we'll examine how agencies with co-jurisdiction may bring horror-mongers, who victimize nations, peoples or ethnic groups to justice; when the ICC is limited in their jurisdiction. Also, we'll consider that since the ICC has no police force or arm of enforcement, how then shall they bring tyrants under control? Until then, consider the words of Frederick William Robertson; British soldier and cleric: "There are three things in the world that deserve no mercy, hypocrisy, fraud and tyranny."

Geiger

From Page 1A

it after a two-year break in the competition due to COVID."

Geiger began singing when she was 5 years old, starting with a kindergarten talent show. She would go on to sign up for vocal and keyboard lessons at the School of Rock. She has performed

with Edmond's School of Rick since she was 7 years old.

"Singing is my passion," she said. "It makes my heart happy and I love to share my music with others. I appreciate my coaches at the School of Rock in Edmond. I had to learn how to yodel for this competition, so that was challenging."

EDITORIAL

Financial Focus

HSA: A healthy way to save for retirement

Many expenses in life are unpredictable. But there are two things you know you'll have to pay for: medical bills and retirement. You'll probably need to take a variety of steps to meet these costs, but one financial instrument that can help is a health savings account (HSA).



Lance Cummings



If you're not familiar with an HSA, here are the basics:

Eligibility – If you are enrolled in a qualified high-deductible health plan (HDHP), you can generally contribute to an HSA.

While HSAs are typically offered through employers, you can still open one if your employer doesn't provide it, or if you're self-employed, although you must have HDHP coverage. You also can't be enrolled in another health insurance plan, other than those permitted, such as dental, vision, long-term care and disability insurance, and you can't be enrolled in Medicare. Also, you can't be claimed as a dependent on another person's tax return.

Contribution limits – In 2022, you can put in up to \$3,650 to an HSA if you have single coverage, or \$7,300 for family coverage. And if you're 55 or older, you can put in an extra \$1,000 per year.

Tax benefits – An HSA has triple tax advantages:

Your contributions are made with pre-tax dollars, so they can reduce your taxable income for the year; your earnings grow tax-free; and your withdrawals are tax-free, provided the money is used for qualified medical expenses. (Withdrawals taken before age 65 that aren't used for qualified medical expenses are taxable and subject to a 20% penalty; once you reach 65, the penalty no longer applies, although withdrawals are still taxable.)

In addition to its providing tax benefits, an HSA can help you in other ways. Perhaps most significantly, your HSA can be an additional financial resource for your retirement. That's because the money in your HSA can be carried over from year to year – you aren't obligated to "use it or lose it." So, the money not spent on annual medical expenses can continue to grow tax-deferred. Plus, an HSA is "portable" – it moves with you when you leave a job.

Furthermore, unlike a 401(k) or a traditional IRA, an HSA does not require you to begin taking withdrawals once you reach 72 – you can leave your account untouched for essentially as long as you'd like. And while you may need to use your HSA funds to meet your medical expenses in retirement – which can be considerable, even with Medicare – you can use what you don't spend on medical costs for your other needs without penalty, once you reach age 65.

(As mentioned above, any HSA withdrawals not used for qualified medical costs are taxable.)

Here's one other point to keep in mind: Your HSA likely contains investment options, along with a cash account. If you put all your funds in the cash account, as many people do, you might be depriving yourself of the growth opportunities provided by the investment options. On the other hand, of course, these investments generally carry more risk. One possible way to benefit from both parts of your HSA is to keep enough cash to cover your health insurance's out-of-pocket maximum and invest the rest.

As you can see, an HSA can help you in numerous ways. If you have access to one, consider taking advantage of it.

Lance Cummings

Edward Jones

13100 Colony Pointe Blvd,

Ste 102 Piedmont, OK 73078

T:405.373.3298 | F: 888.732.3349

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones financial advisor.

Edward Jones.

Member SIPC.

Geiger is a member of the Oklahoma Country Music Singers Association of Oklahoma. She is next set to perform April 2 at Oklahoma Rodeo Opry. The performance will be recorded and

replayed on HANK-FM (97.7) from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday, April 10. Read *The Piedmont-Surrey Gazette* online at piedmontnews.com for updates to local news and sports.



STAFF

Randy K. Anderson, Publisher/Advertising Sales randyk.anderson@sbcglobal.net

Traci Chapman, Managing Editor editor@yukonprogress.com

Blake Colston, Layout Production blake@yukonprogress.com

Aubrey Patton, Production production@yukonprogress.com

Becky Pearce, Legals legals@yukonprogress.com

Jeremy Pyle, Circulation circulation@yukonprogress.com

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DEADLINES

For consideration for the next issue, news items should be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to publication. Display ad reservation deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Monday prior to publication. Classified ad deadline is 5pm on Tuesday before publication.

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Trial set in Yukon man's first-degree murder case

By Traci Chapman
Managing Editor

The first-degree murder case of Yukon man accused of killing an infant has been scheduled for a June trial.

Joshua Paul Jennings, 34, as of press time was set to face a jury June 6. Canadian County District Judge Jack McCurdy will preside over that trial, court records cused of killing his girlfriend's 10-month old child



Joshua Paul Jennings

while she was in his care; Oklahoma City police officers were called to the Mercy Minor Emergency Clinic on South Mustang Rad in Yukon Sept. 25,

2020, after Jennings allegedly took Paisley Cearley there for treatment.

The toddler was taken from the clinic to an area hospital, where she died the next morning, MSgt. Gary Knight of Oklahoma City Police Department said at that time.

Assistant district attorney Austin Murrey filed the charging documents alleging first-degree murder

See Jennings, Page 6A

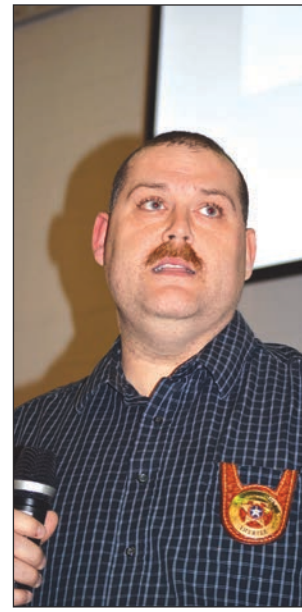
Class

From Page 1A

"Platforms the task force focuses on are numerous and change frequently," Flowers said. "We get so many new platforms a month - we don't usually know what the popular one is until we're about a month behind."

Flowers heads Canadian County Sheriff's Department's Internet Crimes Against Children Division, established by former Sheriff Randall Edwards in 2011.

The task force not only works to fight online crimes locally but also serves in a larger capacity as part of a statewide effort, Flowers



Flowers

said. "This task force, with help from Canadian County's Sheriff's

Department, relies on tips from concerned citizens as well as investigators who pose as minors on various social media networks to sexually exploit minors," he said.

The March 29 event is free and open to the public, although due to the subject matter presented, it is recommended for adults only, officials said.

More information can be found online on Facebook at <https://fb.me/e/3jLLrCXkU> or on Eventbrite at shorturl.at/cprD6.

Canadian County Children's Justice Center is located at 7905 E. Highway 66 in El Reno.

Mollie Spencer Farm gets ready for spring with March events

Mollie Spencer Farm will hold its next Coffee & Conversation series, with a focus on becoming an equine foster.

The event is set for March 26, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Part of a regular series, Coffee & Conversation offers a chance for participants to talk about a host of things that relate to the community, environmental and wildlife preservation and much more. Another Coffee & Conversation is set for April 2 and will address Birds in Oklahoma.

Both the March 26 and April 2 Coffee & Conversation are free of charge



Another Coffee & Conversation is set for April 2 and will address Birds in Oklahoma. (Photo provided)

but pre-registration is required, officials said. That can be accomplished by going online to <https://>

www.eventbrite.com/. Mollie Spencer Farm annually hosts myriad events and partners with

Chisholm Trail Historical Preservation Society, United Scottish Clans of Oklahoma, Yukon Middle

School, Boys and Girls Club of Oklahoma, area Girls and Boy Scouts organizations and more.

Through those partnerships, the farm annually sees both small and large events, including favorites like Easter on the Prairie and the Stirling Classic Scottish Festival.

"Part of our mission at the Mollie Spencer Farm is to provide agricultural, environmental and cultural

opportunities for the community, and the events we have planned throughout the coming year exemplify that," Mollie Spencer Farm board president

Christian Keesee said.

The 33-acre Spencer Farm property was purchased by Mollie Spencer in 1894. She was grandmother to John Kirkpatrick and great-grandmother to Keesee. Located on the original Chisholm Trail, the farm - formerly known as the Kirkpatrick Family Farm - is one of the longest privately held pieces of real estate in Oklahoma.

Keesee donated the farm to the Kirkpatrick Family Fund in 2016.

More information about the farm and its events is available on its website, located at <https://molliespencerfarm.org/>



Opening May 2022

Welcome to a new Canadian County botanical gem, Pugh Gardens. Meandering paths, festooned with stone art, lead your viewing and enjoyment around a three-acre garden campus including sun-loving gardens with stone art, woodland garden, quarter acre lily & Koi pond, panoramic views of prairie, canyons, rolling hills, and a half-mile nature trail.

Hope to see you soon!



We are happy to announce that Pugh Gardens will be opening to the public this spring for botanical touring and excursion.

Gates will open the weekend of Saturday & Sunday of May 14th & 15th and every weekend through November (weather permitting).

Hours will be weekends 10am-4pm with admission of \$12 for adults, children under 12 are free. Additional viewing on weekdays can be arranged and accommodated by appointment.

Pugh Gardens is a splendid venue for photography sessions of every occasion, small weddings, group outings, student field trips, etc. (scheduled by appointment 405-249-8758).



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Visit Pugh Gardens Facebook Page for location and directions.

Winter guard teams have strong showing in Southmoore heading into state competition

By Traci Chapman
Managing Editor

Piedmont winter guard teams were unanimous crowd favorites Saturday, as they performed at Winter Guard and Percussion of Oklahoma's March 19 tournament.

It was a good experience as members and directors alike head into state competition, scheduled for April 2 at Jenks High School.

All three Piedmont teams – middle school, junior varsity and varsity – performed well and earned support from those attending the March 19 contest, held at Southmoore High School.

Varsity placed second in Scholastic B competition, with a score of 70.860, while the junior varsity team came in fifth in a crowded field of highly competitive Scholastic Region A teams. Piedmont JV's final score was 76.140.

Middle school and novice teams are not judged numerically, as are their older counterparts. Piedmont's middle school guard is back this season for the first time since 2018, co-director Mikayla Byrne said Tuesday. This year's program is entitled "Shark in the

Water," after the song of the same name performed by V.V. Brown.

Piedmont's JV team wowed the crowd with their 2022 program, "I Wanna Dance."

The district's varsity team's unusual program - "Rising Phoenix" - features music from League of Legends.

Piedmont – like other guard programs – last year faced challenges due to the novel coronavirus pandemic. Last year's JV show was particularly impacted, but the number of students participating in winter guard has rebounded, Byrne said, with 36 members spread between the three teams.

This season another challenge presented itself in the form of inclement weather that caused the cancellation of two contests; despite those setbacks, Byrne said she and Traylor have been very proud of guard members' achievements and the depth of the programs they have presented.

After winter guard winds down, Byrne and Traylor will prepare for the 2022 marching band season, with color guard tryouts set in May; band camp usually begins in earnest over summer break.



Nichole Newbrey performs during Saturday's Piedmont JV winter guard program at Southmoore High School. (Photo by Traci Chapman)



Zoe Epley and Mindy Booth brought tremendous energy to Piedmont middle school winter guard's performance during the March 19 WGPO competition sponsored by Southmoore High School. (Photo by Traci Chapman)



Kathryn Lennertz displays flag skills during Piedmont varsity's program, "Rising Phoenix," performed during a March 19 WGPO competition. (Photo by Traci Chapman)



Lyric Muchow, left, displays her prowess during Saturday's varsity winter guard competition. All three Piedmont teams – middle school, junior varsity and varsity – performed well and earned support from those attending the March 19 contest, held at Southmoore High School. Piedmont teams next head to Jenks April 2 for their state tournament. Varsity placed second in Scholastic B competition, with a score of 70.860, while the junior varsity team came in fifth in a crowded field of highly competitive Scholastic Region A teams. Piedmont JV's final score was 76.140. (Photo by Traci Chapman)

Jennings

From Page 5A

against Jennings, alleging the Yukon man caused Paisley's death "by willfully and/or maliciously injuring or using unreasonable force...thereby inflicting certain mortal

wounds."

Special Judge Charles Gass ruled during a Nov. 5 arraignment hearing there was probable cause to hold Jennings over for trial for the murder of Paisley Cearley.

Jennings was ar-

rested and booked into Canadian County Jail Sept. 26, 2020; during an Oct. 20 initial arraignment, District Judge Jack McCurdy ordered he be held without bond. The Yukon man has remained in that facility since his

arrest, jail personnel said Tuesday.

If convicted, Jennings faces life in prison without the possibility of parole, life in prison – which could mean his release at some point - or the death penalty.

Before the June jury trial setting, Jennings is scheduled to appear before Judge McCurdy for an April 21 motion hearing. The defense on Feb. 28 filed a motion to quash the charges "for insufficient evidence;" prosecu-

tors March 9 filed their response.

Jennings does not have any criminal felony cases filed against him in jurisdictions participating in Oklahoma State Courts Network, a review of that network showed.

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 -Proverbs 7:1

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SPORTS

Thursday, March 24, 2022

1B

'Cats primed for big season on the track

Cobbs, Jones among top performers

By Blake Colston
Sports Editor

The season is barely a month old and Piedmont's boys track team is already breaking school records.

Kanyon Cobbs, a junior distance runner for the Wildcats, etched his name into the record books last weekend in Texas. He is now the proud owner of the fastest 800 time in school history (1:58.04) thanks to his performance at the Texas Distance Festival at Southlake Carroll High School in the Dallas area.

Fresh off that perfor-

mance, head coach Kelly Beck shared his level of optimism about this year's team as a whole.

"We will probably be better than last year," the coach said. Piedmont finished as state runner-up in Class 5A in 2021.

Here's a look at some of the events where Beck expects Piedmont to run fastest in this season.

4-x-800 relay

Cobbs, Johnnie Jones (senior) Reese Fricke (junior) and Colby Ferbrache (junior) have state title aspirations in 2022.

Fricke and Ferbrache join Jones and Cobbs from last season's 4-X-800 relay squad that was state runner-up.

See 'Cats, Page 2B



Johnnie Jones, left, and Kanyon Cobbs put their long-distance speed on display at the Texas Distance Festival earlier this month. (Photo Provided)

Despite adversity, PHS locked in early this year

By Blake Colston
Sports Editor

After a 12-3 season that ended in the second round of the Class 5A playoffs last season, Piedmont's soccer team has a new challenge to face in 2022.

"A big thread for us this year is how we're going to replace a big

group of seniors," head coach Brad Brucker said. "Right now, we're feeling fantastic about the players filling those roles."

Despite significant injuries that knocked out two starters and a third potential starter this offseason, PHS started 4-0 this season with a

See Soccer, Page 2B



Start Me Up

After a pair of 15-0 district wins over Oklahoma City Southeast earlier this week, Piedmont improved to 9-1 on the diamond this season. Caleb Lunnon, above, and the Wildcats are scheduled to play in the Choctaw/Shawnee Festival beginning today, Thursday, March 24. For more photos from early season action, see Page 3B of this section. (Photo by Jason Nieuwenhuis)

Soccer squads sweep Carl Albert

Submitted by
Rhonda Stovall

The rain and wind did not stop the PHS Varsity soccer teams from traveling to Carl Albert on Tuesday evening. The PHS Girls went into halftime up 1-0, but came out in the second half to finish the job scoring four more goals. Scoring for the Lady Cats were Chloe Mays, Jordan Hahn, Evey Syndes and Aubrey Bray with two goals.

The PHS boys also went into half ahead 3-0. Another goal-filled second half put the Titans away with a final score of 7-0.

Scoring for the Wildcats were Ismael Reyes, Bailey Hyde, Thalen Hillman, Ethan Shelton and Ethan



PHS Senior Forward Aubrey Bray heading to the goal to score against Carl Albert in the game Tuesday night, March 22. (Photo by Rhonda Stovall)

Bredy earning a hat trick. PHS Wildcat soccer will continue this weekend with both the Wildcats and Lady Cats

playing in tournaments on Friday and Saturday. The girls will be playing in the Deer Creek Invitational Tournament and

the boys will be playing in the Chickasha Tournament.

See Winners, Page 2B

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'Cats

From Page 1B

4-X-400 relay

Cobbs, Jones, Fricke and junior Will Geiger make up this relay squad, which Beck expects to be a high finisher at the state meet.

Individually, Ferbrache is closing in on the school record in the 3200 and is also a contender in the 1600. Tanner Bailey, Piedmont's top cross country performer in 2021, will run in both those events, too.

Jones, meanwhile, is a medal contender in the 400 and 800, according to Beck.

Beck said he expects to have a more well-rounded lineup at state this season after closing a few points behind state champion

Ardmore.

"I'm encouraged that we will be able to score points in the sprints and field events," he said.

Next up for Piedmont is a trip to Edmond North for a one-day event today, Thursday, March 24.



PHS Senior Chloe Mays bringing up the ball in the March 22nd game against the Carl Albert Titans. (Photo by Rhonda Stovall)

Winners

From Page 1B

The next game for the Lady Cats is scheduled for Friday, March 25th at 9:00 a.m. vs Deer Creek

The team invites everyone to come out and support PHS Soccer this season as they chase state championships.

Read the Piedmont-Surrey Gazette and follow piedmontnewsonline.com for updates to local news and sports.



Piedmont Wildcat Cambridge Corbin, center, defending the midfield during the Tuesday night game, March 22 against the Carl Albert Titans. PHS won the game 7-0 to improve to 3-1 on the season. The 'Cats' only loss is a 4-1 setback at Enid. (Photo by Rhonda Stovall)

Soccer

From Page 1B

comeback win over a Noble squad that ended Piedmont's 2021 season, and a victory over rival Carl Albert.

"Not many programs can sustain a good level of play after those injuries, but we are doing a good job," Brucker said. "We definitely still think we're a team that can go deep into the playoffs. This teams' goals are the same as any other and they should be. They're good enough."

Here's a look at four of Piedmont's top performers early this spring.

Aubrey Bray, Senior

Bray can attack from midfield, but her versatility allows Piedmont to move Bray around the field to exploit the opposition's defense.

Jordan Hahn, Sophomore

Hahn burst onto the scene with eight goals in her first six games as a Lady Wildcat last season and has grown into more than a goal scorer this season. She's noted for her ability to make plays

for her teammates, too

Serenity Crow, Senior

Crow is an integral part of a six-player senior class that's leading the Lady 'Cats. Crow is known for her energy and tenacity as a defender on the frontline and is off to a strong start in 2022.

Fallon Brock, Junior

A junior, Brock is the leader of Piedmont's backline which has allowed only four goals in three games.

Tough stretch of schedule

Piedmont is in the toughest part of its regular season schedule, Brucker said.

PHS faced Carl Albert Tuesday night and will play in the Deer Creek tournament Friday and Saturday with an opening round game vs. the Antlers.

Either Moore or Norman awaits the Lady Wildcats after that.

The brutal stretch ends with a road game at Edmond Memorial March 29.

"We will know everything we need to know about our team in the next two weeks," Brucker said.

Busy week ahead for spring sports squads

By Blake Colston
Sports Editor

With spring break in the rearview mirror, it's full speed ahead on the spring sports calendar in Piedmont.

Piedmont's baseball team has a busy weekend in the Shawnee/Choctaw Festival, which began today with a matchup against St. Laurence High School of Illinois,

which took a trip south to the Sooner State to take advantage of warmer weather.

PHS is scheduled to face Oklahoma Christian School and Noble on Friday and Dell Rapids High School from South Dakota Saturday.

Meanwhile, the girls and boys soccer clubs are busy with tournament action in Edmond and Choctaw, respectively.

The Lady Wildcats are in the field of the Deer Creek Tournament, with the Wildcats competing in Choctaw.

Edmond North hosted Piedmont's track and field teams today, as yet another spring sport kicks into high gear as April approaches.

Tennis is also in full swing.

Hasley takes individual title as ORU claims team victory

Oral Roberts University's men's golf team claimed its first team victory of the season Tuesday at the Twin Oaks Intercollegiate as senior Dustin Hasley of Piedmont won the in-

dividual title in Springfield, Missouri.

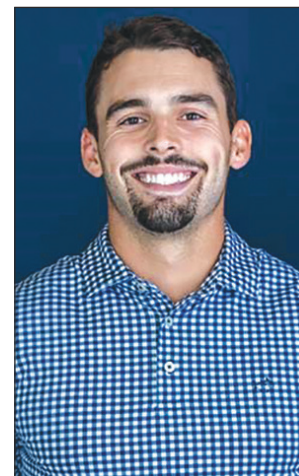
ORU's team score of 15-under 553 was eight strokes better than Valparaiso at Twin Oaks Country Club's par-71 course. Wichita State finished third at 5-under 563.

The Golden Eagles were in first place after Monday's first round at 273. The second round was suspended due to rain and the tournament was shortened to 36 holes.

Hasley finished at 7-under-par 135 and birdied on 10 holes. He shot 69 on Monday and 66 on Tuesday.

Two of Hasley's teammates, Rocco Repetto-Taylor and Hunter Laughlin, each shot 66 the first day and finished within the top 10. Repetto-Taylor turned in a 138 to tie for third and Laughlin shot 139 to finish tied for sixth.

Competing as an individual, junior Jared



Hasley

Strathe, an Owasso High School graduate, shot 2-under 140, finished in a tie for eighth.

Jackson Drake shot even-par 142 and finished in a tie for 14th. Lane Wallace, who received back-to-back Summit League Golfer of the Week awards March 10 and 17, finished in a tie for 27th at 145.

The Golden Eagles compete next in the Craft Farms Intercollegiate, hosted by South Alabama, March 27-29.

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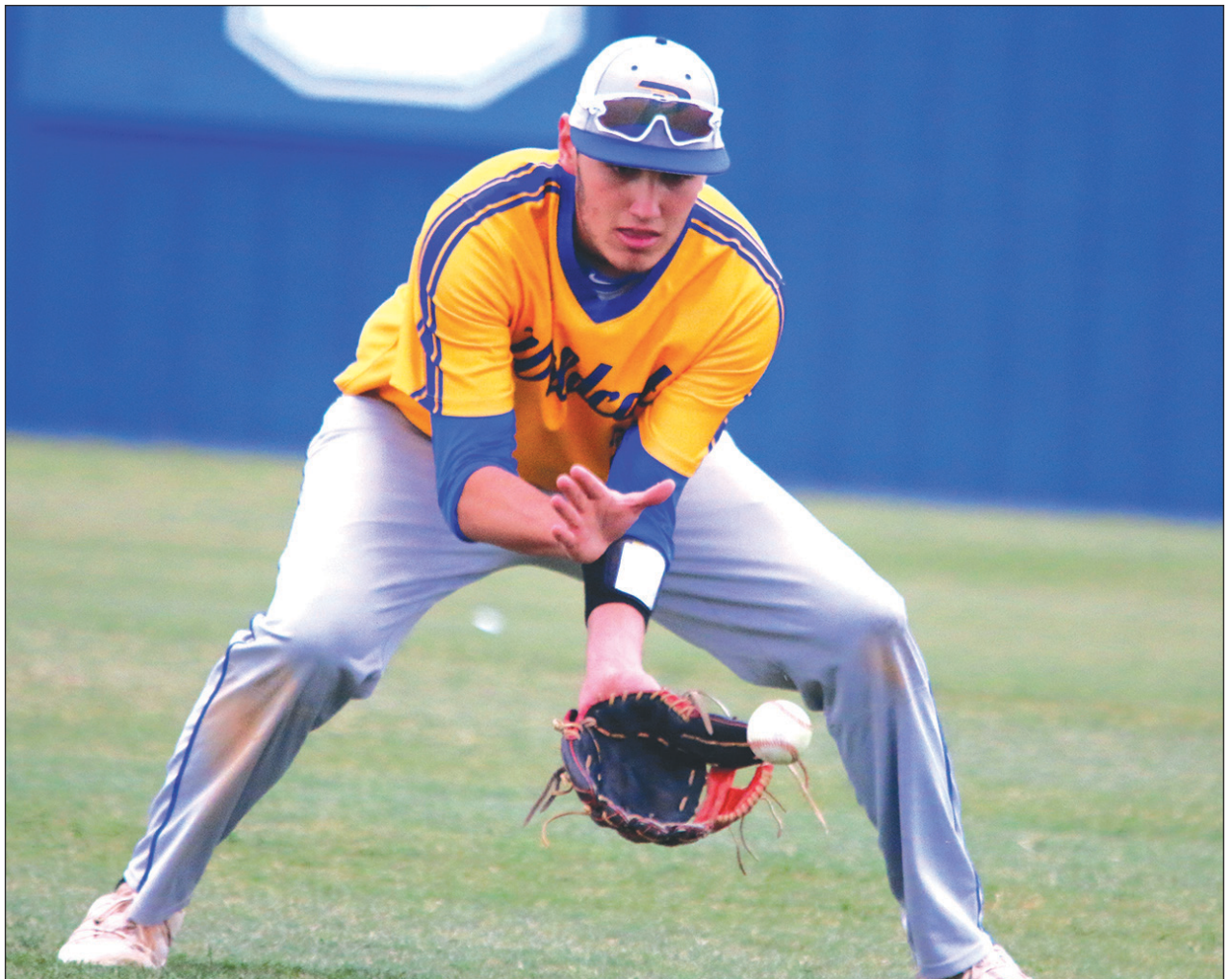
Fidel Hatch steadies his body to make a throw across the field in a game vs. Deer Creek last week.



Cole Riggs dives back safely into first base ahead of a pickoff throw from a Deer Creek pitcher. The game was suspended due to inclement weather. (Photos by Jason Nieuwenhuis)



Logan Hill makes an off-balance toss during the Wildcats' game vs. rival Deer Creek.



Infielder Dalton Hampton looks a ground ball all the way into his glove.

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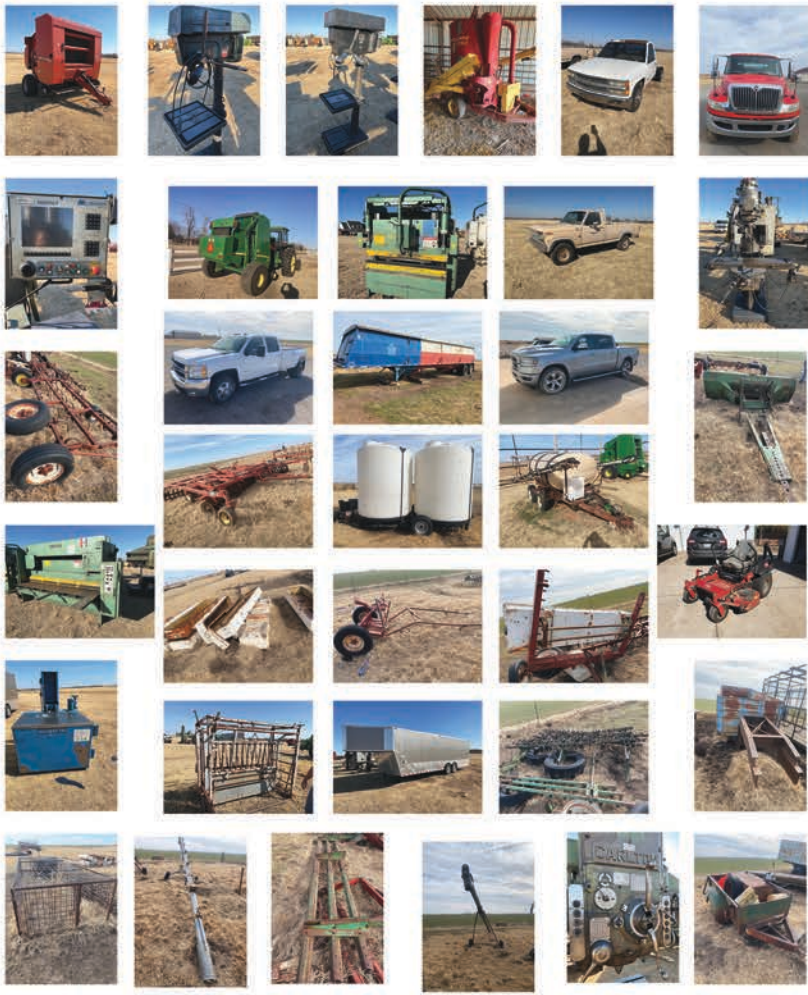
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MON APR 11th 6PM Online Only	John Deere Tractor * Kuhn Disc Mower * Hay Rake * John Deere Baler * Grinder/ Mixer * Hay Trailer * Go-Bob Hay Feeders Bruce Carlson Equip Auction 13044 Old Hwy 99S, Seminole, Ok, 74868 Chris Cameron 405-368-5946 LippardAuctions.com 580-237-7174	FRI APR 29th 10AM Live/Online	23± ACRES * HOME * 3 BED 2 BATH LARGE SHED * LIVESTOCK PENS KINGFISHER COUNTY OK MIKE & PAM PAINE AUCTION 10399 E. 590 RD Hennessey, OK LippardAuctions.com 580-237-7174
TUES APR 12th 6PM Online Only	Osborne & Others Auction Combines, Trucks, Planter, Corn Head, Grain Trailers, Car Trailer, Stripper Head, Header trailer, Gooseneck Grain Trailer, Baler Pick up times by appointment only. Pick up locations: See lots (Enid, Billings, Fairmont Areas) LippardAuctions.com 580-237-7174	FRI APR 29th 2PM Live/Online	Rusty Sanders Auction Large Brick Home * In-Ground Storm Shelter * Updated Master Suite 1.82 Acres - Large Lot * 4 Bedrooms * Circle Drive * Ready for More Updates 1025 Starlite Drive, Kingfisher LippardAuctions.com 580-237-7174

See list of current auctions at www.lippardauctions.com

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Taking more Consignments for this Auction. Bid Increments will be \$25.
Preview: Drive By Anytime • Pick Up Date & Time: April 13th & 14th from 9am - 5pm
Pick Up Location: 14800 SW 104th Mustang, OK
Items not picked up are considered abandoned and not refundable!
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ESTATE OF FLOYD & DEANNA SIMPSON ESTATE AUCTION ONLINE AUCTION • SALE #1 TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 10am thru SUNDAY, MARCH 27 2pm



Household auction items include: Kitchen tables, Men's clothes, Mathis Brother's furniture, Picture frames and household decor, kitchenware, and more. Items in the garage vary from tools to decorations. Simpson Auction #1 items will be located in the house, back porch, and garage only. None of these items will be located in the shop.



VIEW ALL PHOTOS
ONLINE AT
www.kencarpenterauction.com

Preview Day - March 26th from 9am - Noon
Pick Up Date & Time: Monday, March 28th from 9am - 5pm Pick Up Location: 10101 Fawn Trace Rd. Mustang, OK
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ABSOLUTE REAL ESTATE & ESTATE AUCTION

SAT. MARCH 26TH @ 10:00 AM

AUCTION HELD AT: DAKIL AUCTIONEERS, INC.
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INSPECTION: Sat., March 19 from 10 AM to 3 PM and
Fri., March 25 from 8 AM to 5 PM and Starting at 8 AM Day of Auction
from 8:30 AM To 4:30 PM & Starting at 8:00 AM Day of Auction

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The newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on equal opportunity basis.

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WORLD'S LARGEST GUN SHOW — April 2 & 3 — Tulsa, OK Fairgrounds. Saturday 8-6, Sunday 8-4. WANENMACHER'S TULSA ARMS SHOW. Free appraisals. Bring your guns! www.TulsaArmsShow.com

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Legal Notice

(Published in the Piedmont-Surrey Gazette for two (2) consecutive weeks: March 17, 2022 and March 24, 2022)

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
CJ-2021-110

Notice is given that on the 9th day of May, 2022, at 10 A.M. at the Courtroom #2 of the County Courthouse, Canadian County, Oklahoma, the Sheriff will offer for sale and sell, with appraisal, at public auction, to the highest and best bidder, all that certain real estate in Canadian County, Oklahoma,:

Lot Twenty-eight (28) of Block One (1) in **PIEDMONT MEADOWS PHASE 1** to Canadian County, Oklahoma, according to the recorded plat thereof

subject to unpaid taxes, and all amounts set forth in the judgment granted herein, said property having been duly appraised at \$270,784.00. Sale will be made pursuant to a Special Execution and Order of Sale issued in accordance with judgment entered in the District Court of Canadian County, Oklahoma, in Case No. CJ-2021-110, titled Athene Annuity and Life Company, vs Robert Horton, Spouse of Robert Horton, Rita L. Horton, Spouse of Rita L. Horton, John Doe and Jane Doe, being all of the Defendants and persons holding or claiming any interest in lien in the subject property.

Canadian County Sheriff
Canadian County, Oklahoma

/s/
DEPUTY

Don Timberlake - # 9021
Kim S. Jenkins - # 32809
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(Published in the Piedmont-Surrey Gazette for two (2) consecutive weeks: March 24, 2022 and March 31, 2022)

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Advertisement to Contractors
April 14, 2022 – 10:30 A.M. Bid Opening

Plans and proposals for this bid opening will be ready for sale on March 24, 2022. No bidding proposals will be issued to any Contractor after April 13, 2022 10:30 A.M. The cost for each bidding proposal is \$50.00 + tax. State Standard Specifications may be purchased by contacting Office Services Division. No refunds will be made for bidding documents or specification books purchased.

Sample proposals, preliminary plans, long form and short form notices, order forms, bid tabs and awards, can be accessed on ODOT's Web site: <http://www.okladot.state.ok.us/contracts/index.htm>

Bids must be prepared as directed by the State Standard Specifications. Unless otherwise specified, bids for all projects must be submitted over the internet to Bid Express (<http://www.bidx.com>) using AASHTOware Project Bids. Instructions for using Bid Express, Project Bids, and the electronic bidding process are available from the Office Engineer Division. When written bids are allowed, sealed proposals may be delivered directly to the Office Engineer Division prior to the scheduled bid opening. For written bids, do not disassemble the bidding proposal in any way.

Any firm bidding a project as a joint venture must complete the 'Request for Joint Venture' form, which is posted on the ODOT website, prior to the bid opening.

Unless otherwise specified in the proposal, all bids must be submitted with a proposal guaranty equal to 5% of the bid total.


Unless it is specifically stated, there will not be a pre-bid meeting for this April 14, 2022 bid opening. Please submit your questions through the ODOT pre-bid email address: ODOT-Prebid.Question@odot.org. Questions and responses will be posted to the "Pre-bid Questions and Answers" section of the ODOT website as they are received. It is recommended that interested contractors visit the "Pre-Bid Questions and Answers" link on the ODOT Contracts & Proposals webpage regularly in order to stay informed of the latest information: <https://www.odot.org/contracts>. Unless otherwise noted in the proposal, upon award of the contract to the successful bidder, the contract will be completely and correctly executed by the contractor and returned to the Department within ten (10) working days from the date of award. The Department will have fourteen (14) working days from the date of award to complete its execution of the contract.

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority (OTA) ensures that no person or groups of persons shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, retaliation or genetic information, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any and all programs, services, or activities administered by ODOT or OTA, their recipients, sub-recipients, and contractors. To request an accommodation please contact the ADA Coordinator at 405-521-4140 or the Oklahoma Relay Service at 1-800-722-0353. If you have any ADA or Title VI questions email ODOT-ada-titlevi@odot.org.

Description of work and location of project: Call Order: 109
SBR-209N(094)SB US-81 CANADIAN JP NO. 33880(04)
BRIDGE REHABILITATION
US-81/SH-3: OVER UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD, 0.6 MILES SOUTH OF THE KINGFISHER COUNTY LINE NEAR OKARCHE.
STATE OF OKLAHOMA, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
- By: TIM GATZ, Director.

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*A legal newspaper of the county is any newspaper which, during a period of one hundred four (104) consecutive weeks immediately prior to the first publication; has maintained a paid general subscription circulation in the county; and has been admitted to the United States mails as paid second-class mail matter; and has been continuously and uninterruptedly published in the county.

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COUNTY

Thursday, March 24, 2021

1C

Countdown clock ticking toward April 5 election

Voting begins in just days for an April 5 election that in Yukon features the Yukon Board of Education Office No. 2 race.

EARLY VOTING BEGINS MARCH 31
That voting commences

March 31 when those who wish to cast a ballot early can do so. Early voting is open to anyone who wishes to participate in it, and no reason is needed, Canadian County Election Board Secretary Wanda Arnold said. "You do not need to

provide an excuse to vote early. Oklahoma allows early voting for all elections conducted through the state election board—from school board and municipal elections to state and federal elections," she said. "This is a great option for those

who will be out of town on election day or who want to avoid long lines." Early voting is only available at the county election board office, located at 200 S. Bickford Avenue in El Reno.

See *Election*, Page 2C



Pictured is Piedmont special athlete Elaina Roberts, participating in a previous Special Olympics summer games in Stillwater. SOOK has announced the return of the summer games this year, the first time since COVID-19 hit the area in March 2020. (File photo)

Special Olympics summer games return after two-year absence

Special Olympics Oklahoma has announced the news athletes and their families have long been waiting for – the return of the state summer games, sidelined for two years due to the novel coronavirus.

SOOK has put into place specific protocols to allow the organization to return to its arguably biggest event of the year, a competition that draws thousands of athletes,

sponsors, teachers and family members to Oklahoma State University each May.

The 2022 Special Olympics summer games will be held from Wednesday, May 11 through Friday, May 13. Most activities are held on the OSU campus, as well as various locations throughout Stillwater.

Registration forms for participation must be submitted by April 1 and can

be sent to SOOK Summer Games, 6835 S. Canton Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74136. Forms may be mailed or hand-delivered – officials recommended if sending applications in, that be done through a service that would provide confirmation of delivery.

Registrations may not be submitted by email, officials said.

See *Games*, Page 3C

AERO Oklahoma to return after two-year COVID hiatus

Oklahoma's aviation and aerospace industry will be celebrated March 30 during AERO Oklahoma at the state capitol.

The annual event – canceled in both 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19 health and safety concerns returns in full force, officials said. AERO Oklahoma serves as an awareness day for aviation, aerospace and defense.

"The purpose of the day is to recognize Oklahoma's aviation, aerospace, and defense industry as a vital economic engine for our state," said Grayson Ardies, state director of aeronautics. "It is a unique opportunity for industry officials to come together in one unified voice and meet with state legislators and other elected officials to remind them of Oklahoma's strong aviation heritage



and show them firsthand how the industry continues to solidify our state as a worldwide leader in aviation, aerospace, and aerospace and defense."

AERO Oklahoma is scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sponsored by Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission, the event will feature many of the state's top aerospace entities, which will have

exhibit booths set up around the second-floor rotunda to promote their organizations to show what impact they and the rest of the state's aerospace industry have on Oklahoma's economy.

The event is limited to Oklahoma-based aviation, aerospace, and defense organizations. If there is booth space

See *AERO*, Page 3C

Fires concern county leaders

Despite rains, commissioners keep burn ban active this week

By Conrad Dudderar
Staff Writer

EL RENO — Despite recent heavy rains, Canadian County's burn ban remains active this week due to several fires, ample dry vegetation and continuing strong winds.

Canadian County's current outdoor burning prohibition has been in place since March 14.

"Our burn ban is still in existence, at least for another week anyway," Canadian County Emergency Management Director Andrew Skidmore said March 21. "We had some rain but yesterday



Andrew Skidmore

there were fires all around us."

Commissioners talked about ongoing extreme fire dangers at their weekly Monday morning meeting. No new action was taken.

Sunday was an especially bad day.

One firefighter was killed in Lawton working a grass fire.

"There was a house fire in Mustang, and we had one in Tuttle yesterday that almost reached I-40," Skidmore told county commissioners.

Last weekend's fires came soon after significant rainfall last Thursday night that left large puddles of standing water across the area.

More rain fell steadily again during much of the day Monday.

Despite this recent precipitation, District 1 County Commissioner Marc Hader supported keeping outdoor burning restrictions in effect this week.

"I'm starting to see things 'blooming out' a little bit and getting a little green," Hader said. "But the biggest concern is that we've had dried

See *Burn Ban*, Page 2C

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Election

From Page 1C

Ballots may be cast from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, March 31, and Friday, April 1.

ELECTION DAY REMINDERS AND TIPS

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. during election day, set for April 5. In addition to the Yukon school board election, balloting is also scheduled in various areas of Canadian County, including Mustang, Deer Creek, Geary and Hinton, Arnold said.

The election board secretary offered several tips for voters, particularly those new to the process:

- Mark your ballot using the example posted at your polling place and inside your ballot booth. If you make a mistake, do not try to correct it. Instead, take your ballot

to the precinct officials. They will destroy the ballot and issue a new one.

- You do not need to make a selection for each issue on the ballot in order for your ballot to be counted. The voting device will cast votes only for those issues which you have marked.

- Ballots can be read by the voting device regardless of how you insert the ballot into the system. If the system detects too many markings for a single office or question, an error code will appear. The voter can choose to submit the ballot as it is or request a new ballot.

- If you need assistance or would like to use the audio-assisted ballot system, let a precinct official know. You do not have to show proof of a disability to use the audio-assisted ballot system.

- Be sure to bring an approved form of identi-

fication. Federal and state issued photo IDs, passports, and tribal-issued, photo IDs are accepted. You may also use the voter identification card you were mailed when you registered.

Anyone who forgets their voter identification card or who cannot be found on the precinct registry may still cast a ballot – a provisional document allowed by the voter signing an affidavit. Provisional ballots are sealed and counted separately, after election day once a voter's information is verified by the county election board.

"Election results cannot be certified until all provisional ballots have been researched, verified, and counted," Arnold said.

Voting activity is generally slowest during the mid-morning and mid-afternoon, but lines and

wait times can vary from precinct to precinct. All voters who want to cast a ballot should be in line no later than 7 p.m.

"Anyone who is in line by 7 p.m. on Tuesday and who is eligible to vote will be allowed to vote," Arnold said.

Individual polling locations can be found online at the Oklahoma State Election Board Oklahoma Voter Portal, found at <https://www.oklahoma.gov/elections/ovp>.

ELECTION DAY LAWS AND REMINDERS

Voters in Canadian County are reminded to keep the integrity of the election system in mind when going to the polls.

While ballot "selfies" or taking photographs of a marked ballot are legal, voters may not share or distribute the image

through social media or by any other means while inside the election enclosure.

"Voters must wait until they leave their polling place before posting or sharing the picture with anyone - improper use of the photo could result in a violation of the law," Arnold said. "Voters may not use the image to coerce, influence, or intimidate another voter.

"While some offenses may seem minor, unlawful activity on Election Day constitutes a serious crime and could result in a misdemeanor or in some cases, a felony conviction," she said. "We want all voters to be aware of their actions and be respectful of the rights of others."

Arnold said it is illegal to disclose how you voted with anyone while inside the election enclosure. In addition, voters

may not remove a ballot from the polling place.

Campaigning or electioneering is prohibited within 300 feet of any ballot box while an election is in progress. This includes wearing or bringing visible campaign related paraphernalia into the election enclosure.

Arnold said no one except election officials and voters waiting to vote are allowed within 50 feet of any ballot box on election day. Certain exceptions are made for media and those assisting disabled voters.

Canadian County Election Board is located at 200 S. Bickford Avenue in El Reno and is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information, contact the county election board office by phone at (405) 422-2422 or via email at CanadianCounty@elections.ok.gov.

Burn Ban

From Page 1C

vegetation from over the winter months.

"And with the wind blowing, even if we get rain, it's evaporating off the surface."

When Bermuda grass starts to grow as temperatures rise, the situation will change.

District 3 Commissioner Jack Stewart referred to a weather forecast that shows no more rain expected over the next 7-10 days.

County commissioners agreed to follow Skidmore's recommendation to keep the burn ban in place for another week.

"With the windy conditions, I agree we ought to leave it alone," Stewart said.

Commissioners will revisit the issue at their next regular meeting March 28.

CONSTRUCTION LOAN PAYOFF

Canadian County Com-



Commissioners will revisit the issue of a burn ban at their next regular meeting March 28. (Photo by Jeremy Pyle)

missioners this week formally approved a request to pay off early a use tax revenue note that helped fund the Canadian County Expo & Event Center construction project.

The \$3.5 million loan was secured in 2019

through BancFirst at a 3.85% interest rate.

Instead of refinancing at a lower rate, commissioners recently decided to retire the remaining \$3.4 million in debt using funds from three separate accounts.

Canadian County commissioners are being "good stewards" of taxpayer

money by paying this loan off quickly thus saving substantial interest costs, according to Commissioner Hader said.

In other action at their March 21st meeting, county commissioners approved:

- Designating the general government account to hold American Rescue

Plan Act (ACT) federal stimulus funds. Canadian County has received half of its \$28 million allocation.

- A replat of Wolf Creek Meadows, a new five-acre housing addition near 234th (Moffat Road) and Sara Road in District 1.

- An affidavit certifying completion of a REAP (Rural Economic Action Plan) chip seal asphalt

project on 164th Street one mile east from Calumet Road.

- Awarding a bid to Ergon Asphalt and Emulsion to provide District 3 with scrub seal oil material for \$3.50 per gallon.

- Naming streets in a new housing addition near Calumet for 9-1-1 addressing purposes – Blazing Star Lane, Buffalo Crossing, Cardinal Lane, Prairie Lane, and Tumbleweed Lane.



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County clears hurdle to fix historic jail roof

By Conrad Dudderar
Staff Writer

Preservation El Reno, commissioners sign partial release of lease

EL RENO — A plan to spend some \$150,000 budgeted to replace the roof on the historic Canadian County Jail has moved a step closer to reality.

Canadian County commissioners at their weekly meeting March 21 voted 3-0 to approve a partial release of lease between Canadian County and Preservation El Reno, Inc. for the “old” county jail building at the corner of Rogers and Evans.

The action amends a 1995 lease agreement between the county and Preservation El Reno for the historic jail building and stables (also known as the “carriage house”).

“This partial release releases everything related to the old jail entirely,” Canadian County Commission Chairman Dave Anderson said. “The county has the maintenance responsibility back.”

The former jail, 300 N Evans, is located next to the Canadian County Courthouse and Judicial Building. The roof partially collapsed, which has caused significant damage

below.

Canadian County will seek bids from contractors interested in replacing the historic jail’s roof.

“This (partial release) gives us the ability to move forward and get that roof replaced,” District 3 County Commissioner Jack Stewart said. “It needs to be ‘gutted’ and everything else.”

“But the first step is getting a roof on it; this clears the hurdle for that,” he said.

Chairman Anderson said he’s received “a few emails” from interested bidders.

County commissioners must approve the contract award before any work begins.

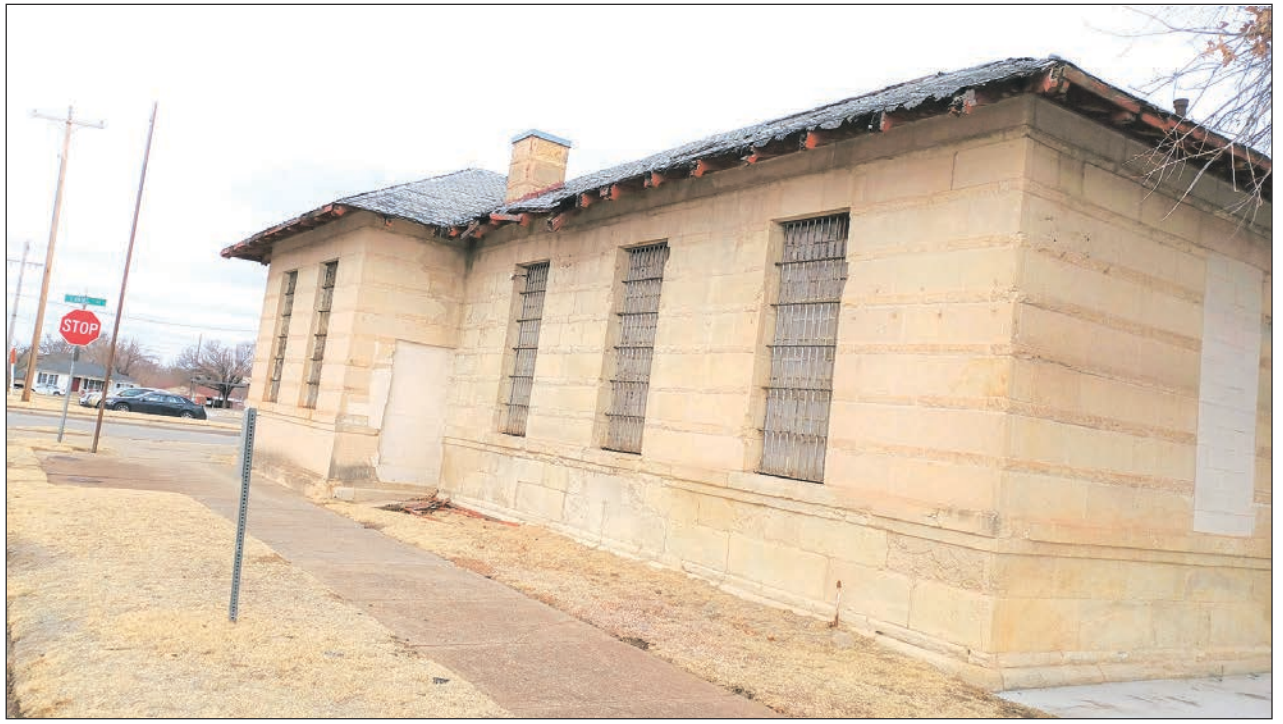
The building is on Oklahoma’s National Register of Historic Places.

REVISION HAS BEEN A PROCESS

Preservation El Reno President Betty Johnston recently signed off on the partial lease release.

Revising this agreement has been a process, she added.

“I hope that the build-



Canadian County Commissioners this week approved a partial release of lease between the county and Preservation El Reno that allows the county to move ahead with plans to replace the roof at the historic county jail, 301 N Evans in El Reno. (Photo by Conrad Dudderar)

ing will be used for the benefit of all the citizens of Canadian County and the state,” Johnston told commissioners.

“There’s a lot of interest in that building.”

The old jail could be made available to house Canadian County inmates when there’s no space in the existing county jail, District 1 Commissioner

Marc Hader said jokingly.

At a previous meeting, Johnston told commissioners she supports having a new roof that matches one installed on the Canadian County Stables.

“If we duplicate that, I think we’d be OK,” Johnston told commissioners. “We just need to get it done.”

The newly revised

agreement gives Preservation El Reno the right to take the historic building back if someone ever wanted to lease it from Canadian County.

“They have the first right of refusal to match the offer that we have at that time,” Chairman Anderson explained.

Canadian County has budgeted \$150,000 to fix

the roof, which Anderson noted is “caving in” and must be addressed.

However, county officials won’t know the exact cost until they review formal bid proposals.

Other repairs likely will exceed the \$150,000 budgeted because of the rest of the building’s condition, commissioners said.

March 31 is 2022 deadline to change party affiliation

For voters who wish to change their party affiliation before the bulk of 2022 elections, March 31 is the deadline to do so, officials say.

Oklahoma law dictates that no party affiliation changes may be made between April 1 and

Aug. 31 of even-numbered year.

“If we receive your request after March 31, we are required by law to hold that request and process it in September,” Canadian County Election Board Secretary Wanda Arnold said.

Voters may change their

party affiliation online using the Oklahoma Voter Portal, located at <https://www.oklahoma.gov/elections/ovp> or by completing a new Voter Registration Application and submitting it to the county election board office.

Oklahoma has three recognized parties - Democratic, Republican and Libertarian.

Voters must be a registered member of a party in order to vote in that party’s primary election.

Independents are permitted

to participate in a primary election, only if a party officially requests its elections be opened to Independent voters.

Currently, only the Democratic Party allows Independents to vote in its primary elections.

AERO

From Page 1C

unfilled as the day approaches, the overflow waiting list will be activated on a first-come-first-served basis and companies will be notified of their selection.

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lion; and commercial and general aviation airports, \$10.6 billion. Aviation & Aerospace supports 206,000 jobs totaling an \$11.7 billion payroll.

The average salary in the industry is \$73,300, making it one of the highest average salaries in the state.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

7:30 a.m. - Registration Opens, Room 100

7:30 a.m. - Booth Set-Up Begins, Second Floor Rotunda

8 a.m. - Oklahoma Dept. of Commerce

ACES Program Meeting, Fifth Floor

9:30 a.m. - Exhibitor Booth’s Open

9:30 a.m. - Aircraft Technicians Break-Out Session, “Explore Aviation”, Rm 100

10:30 a.m. - General Assembly with Oklahoma State Officials, Fourth Floor Rotunda

11:30 a.m. - Industry Lunch, Second Floor Ro-

tunda, Tickets Required 11:30 a.m. - AOPA

“You Can Fly” Student Assembly, Invitation Only, Room 100

Noon - Military Appreciation Lunch, Invitation Only, Room 535

1:30 p.m. - Legislative Session

2:00 p.m. - Conclusion

Games

From Page 1C

Any athletes who have participated in area athletics may register for the summer games; two regularly held events – bowling and unified three-by-three basketball would not be offered this

year, officials said.

More information, including schedules, coaches resources and more is available on the Special Olympics Oklahoma website, located at <https://www.sook.org/events/summer-games-2/>.

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WHAT TO DO DURING A TORNADO SAFETY AWARENESS



BEFORE STORM SEASON ...

If you have a storm shelter: Make sure to register it with the police department. Forms are available online at www.yukonok.gov/online-forms/storm-shelter-registry/. Fill out the form and submit it to the City of Yukon. If you have any changes in the number of people living in your home or a new contact phone number, be sure to send in updated information.

Prepare a disaster first aid/ready kit in advance. A basic emergency supply kit could include the following recommended items: Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation; Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food; Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both; Flashlight and extra batteries; First aid kit; Whistle to signal for help; Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place; Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation; Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities; Manual can opener for food; Local maps, Cell phone with chargers, inverter of solar charger.

Plan: Make a plan of action and include detailed responsibilities such as who will be responsible for the household pets, where will the family meet after a storm if separated. Plan escape routes in the event of a fire. Practice your plan several times before storm weather and make any adjustments on practice runs. Don't wait until an actual emergency to find out you missed a critical action in your plan.

DURING A STORM OR TORNADO ALERT...

In a house with no basement, a dorm, or an apartment: Avoid windows. Go to the lowest floor, small center room (like a bathroom or closet) under a stairwell, or in an interior hallway with no windows. Crouch as low as possible to the floor, facing down; and cover your head with your hands. A bath tub may offer a shell of partial protection. Even in an interior room, you should cover yourself with some sort of thick padding (mattress, blankets, etc.) to protect against falling debris in case the roof and ceiling fall. In an office building, hospital, nursing home: Go directly to an enclosed, windowless area in the center of the building - away from glass and on the lowest floor possible. Then crouch down and cover your head. Interior stairwells are usually good places to take shelter, and if not crowded, allow you to get to a lower level quickly. Stay off the elevators; you could be trapped in them if the power is lost.

In a mobile home: Get out! Even if your home is tied down, you are probably safer outside, even if the only alternative is to seek shelter out in the open. Most tornadoes can destroy even tied-down mobile homes; and it is best not to play the low odds that yours will make it. If your community has a tornado shelter, go there fast. If there is a sturdy permanent building within easy running distance, seek shelter there. Otherwise lie flat on the low ground away from your home, protecting your head. If possible, use open ground away from trees and cars, which can be blown onto you.

At school: Follow the drill! Go to the interior hall or room in an orderly way as you are told. Crouch low, head down, and protect the back of your head with your arms. Stay away from windows and large open rooms like gyms and auditoriums.

In a car or truck: Vehicles are extremely dangerous in a tornado. If the tornado is visible, far away, and the traffic is light, you may be able to drive out of its path by moving at right angles to the tornado. Otherwise, park the car as quickly and safely as possible - out of the traffic lanes. (It is safer to get the car out of mud later if necessary than to cause a crash.) Get out and seek shelter in a sturdy building. If in the open country, run to low ground away from any cars (which may roll over on you). Lie flat and face-down protecting the back of your head with your arms. Avoid seeking shelter under bridges, which can create deadly traffic hazards while offering little protection against flying debris.

In the open outdoors: If possible, seek shelter in a sturdy building. If not, lie flat and face-down on low ground, protecting the back of your head with your arms. Get as far away from trees and cars as you can; they may be blown onto you in a tornado.

In a shopping mall or large store: Do not panic. Watch for others. Move as quickly as possible to an interior bathroom, storage room or other small enclosed area, away from windows.

In a church or theater: Do not panic. If possible, move quickly but orderly to an interior bathroom or hallway, away from windows. Crouch face-down and protect your head with your arms. If there is not time to do that, get under the seats or pews, protecting your head with your arms or hands.

AFTER THE TORNADO ...

Keep your family together and wait for emergency personnel to arrive. Carefully render aid to those who are injured. Stay away from power lines and puddles with wires in them; they may still be carrying electricity! Watch your step to avoid broken glass, nails and other sharp objects. Stay out of the heavily damaged houses or buildings; they could collapse at any time. Do not use matches or lighters, in case of leaking natural gas pipes or fuel tanks nearby. Remain calm and alert, and listen for information and instructions from emergency crews or local officials.



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Canadian County District Court Records

Canadian County District Court Records (March 14-18):

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Nicholas Michael Craw and Dessiree Lanae Knox.
Shawn David Scott and Camie Lynn Maxey.
Ryan Philip Pendexter and Meagan Ashley Ellsworth.
Taurino Baxcajay Isidro and Angelica Michele Rivera.
Sarah J. Lindhe and Christin Nicole Goines.
Jordan LaFalle Smith and Tatum Nicole Taylor.

DIVORCES FILED

Julie Annette Wilkerson and James Dale Wilkerson.
Danielle Renee Bass and Samuel Marcus Bass.
Paul David Skillern and Judith Ellen Skillern.
Jasmine Warren and Kendrick Warren.
Courtney Gail Galvan and Irving George Galvan.
Bruce Duncan and Mariah Lewis.
Robert Clinton Gary and April Dawn McDaniel Gary.
Lauren M. Whitaker and Gary A. Whitaker.
Logan Taylor Ellzey Yuyun and Clifford Ajyme Yuyun.
Jennie Nicole Hosker and Christopher James Hosker.
McKenzie M. Tift and Bradley K. Tift.
Dorothy Elizabeth Franks and Andrew Franks.
Katrina Eaton and Paul Eaton.
Patricio G. Rodriguez and Juaquita G. Rodriguez.
Cristal R. West and Caleb J. Mock.
Melissa Marie Phillips

and Stephen Lloyd Phillips.
Marty Rashed Shepherd and Rodney Daniel Shepherd.
Daniel E. Bisel and Miki S. Battiest.
Matthew Loeffelholz and Misty D. Loeffelholz.
Tracey L. Anderson and Jeffrey B. Anderson.
Regan Gail Moad and Donal Shaun Moad.

FELONIES FILED

Oklahoma City's Ethan Hammond Morris, unlawful possession of controlled dangerous substance with intent to distribute and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia.
Oklahoma City's Randi Dawn Vaught, unlawful possession of controlled dangerous substance with intent to distribute and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia.
Bethany's Sarah Elizabeth Decker, larceny of merchandise from retailer and trespassing after being forbidden.
Tuttle's William Avery Lingle, endangering others while eluding/attempting to elude police officer, leaving scene of accident involving damage, driving under the influence, and person involved in personal injury accident while under the influence of alcohol/intoxicating beverage.
Mustang's Nicholas G. Stroud, driving under the influence of alcohol, leaving scene of accident involving damage and carrying firearm while under the influence.
Yukon's Kira Day Cleverly, possession of firearms after conviction or during probation.
Salinas, Calif.'s Jesus

Antonio Alvarez-Tarula, trafficking in illegal drugs.
Diego Jahir Pasos-Ruiz, trafficking in illegal drugs.
El Reno's Derek Dean Holland, uttering forged instruments.
Moore's Caleb Michael Carroll, assault and battery with deadly weapon.
Juarez Chihuahua, Mexico's Raul Garcia-Gutierrez, aggravated trafficking in illegal drugs.
Oklahoma City's Cydnei Tysha Mitchell, first-degree murder and bringing contraband into jail.
Oklahoma City's Monica Marie Merritt, possession of contraband (drugs) by inmate.
Mustang's Stephen Dale Stingley, second-degree burglary and knowingly receiving/concealing stolen property.
Mustang's Brandon Allen Knight, second-degree burglary and knowingly receiving/concealing stolen property.
Flushing, Mich.'s Kevo-drick Marquis Johnson, conspiracy and obtaining property by false pretenses.
Danarius Laquandra Primm, conspiracy and obtaining property by false pretenses.
Flint, Mich.'s Kyree Jacob Morgan, conspiracy and obtaining property by false pretenses.
Midwest City's Matthew Ryan Barte, conspiracy and first-degree robbery.
Midwest City's Tyrone Ladell West, assault with a dangerous weapon.
Oklahoma City's Nathaniel Hunter Zorn, conspiracy and first-degree robbery.
Yukon's Kristina Lynn

Anderson, obtaining cash/merchandise by false pretenses.
Yukon's Logan White, aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol.
Oklahoma City's Dylan Jacob Hight, driving under the influence of alcohol.
El Reno's Patricia Michelle McLeod, falsely personate another to create liability.
Alva's Taylor Cole Cunningham, throw or drop object on motor vehicle, public intoxication, malicious injury to property, and obstructing an officer.
Edmond's William Michael Rhone, domestic assault and battery with dangerous weapon and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.
El Reno's Skyler Chase Miller, assault and battery on police officer.
Norman's Blake Lee Dexter, pattern of criminal offenses, second-degree burglary, knowingly concealing stolen property, and concealing stolen construction equipment.
Union City's Corey Travis Woodcock, domestic assault and battery.
Oklahoma City's Julie Ann Martin, pattern of criminal offenses, identity theft, unlawful use of license, and concealing stolen construction equipment.
Ft. Smith, Ark.'s Reinaldo Alejandro Hernandez, trafficking in illegal drugs.
Binger's Christopher Ross Trawick, protective order violation.

MISDEMEANORS FILED

Oklahoma City's Ethan Hammond Morris, unlawful possession of

controlled dangerous substance and larceny of merchandise from retailer.
Yukon's Gregory Albert Patty, negligent homicide.
Yukon's Heath Lane Joseph Arthur, aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol.
Oklahoma City's Bryan James Fonvielle, possession of controlled dangerous substance and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia.
Oklahoma City's Halie Nicole Leeper, possession of controlled dangerous substance and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia.
Oklahoma City's Valantay Ray Perkins, trespassing after being forbidden.
El Reno's Corey Dale Glasco, domestic assault and battery.
El Reno's MacKenzie Danielle Martin, harassing and threatening electronic communication.
El Reno's Aimee Beasley Ortiz, acts resulting in gross injury/outraging public decency.
Union City's Christopher Lee Woolard, domestic assault and battery.
Midwest City's Reynaldo Garza III, driving with suspended/revoked license.
Yukon's Wiley DeWayne Warner, domestic assault and battery.
Yukon's Joshua Shane

Orellanes, driving under the influence of alcohol, improper passing on right, transporting opened container of intoxicating beverage, and driving with revoked/suspended license.
Yukon's Bryan Jamie Nelms, driving under the influence of alcohol.
Oklahoma City's Evan Reese Heim, protective order violation.
Minco's Jerry Lawrence Church, protective order violation.
Geary's Jonathan Nelson Clark, protective order violation.

LAWSUITS FILED

Ransom Nichols vs. Zachary Defibaugh, negligence.
U.S. Bank vs. Carlos Matias, foreclosure.
Ideal Homes of Norman and Sweetgrass Partners vs. DCP Midstream Marketing, declaratory judgment.
Lakeview Loan Servicing vs. Justin Gipson and Heirs/Trustees of Sherry Gipson, foreclosure.
Discover Bank vs. Paul Stewart, debt.
HSBC Bank vs. Linda J. Williams and Jeffrey L. Williams, foreclosure.
Kalidy, Inc. vs. Isaac Schlosser, foreclosure.
Chickasaw Community Bank vs. Catelynn Denise Bond, foreclosure.
Lakeview Loan Servicing vs. Megan Coleman, foreclosure.
US Bank vs. Greg Aaron Maples, foreclosure.
State of Oklahoma Department of Public Safety vs. PK&T Properties, condemnation.
State of Oklahoma Department of Public Safety vs. Jai Madie Corporation, condemnation.

Redlands CC public fun run set for April 2 in El Reno

Redlands Community College is teaming up with El Reno Public Schools to host an April 2 5K fun run to ben-

efit both schools' cross country programs.

Called Twister Trek, the 5K is set to begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, April

2, and will be held at El Reno's Memorial Stadium. The course will begin and end at the stadium, running by Lake El Reno. The event is open to the public and will feature food

trucks at the finish line, officials said.

The event will assist cross country programs at both ERPS and Redlands – a school which only recently formed a team, coach Natalie

Graves said.

"The Redlands Cross Country program is still relatively new, so we are excited to partner with El Reno's program to create a fun, community event that will benefit all of our runners," she said.

Registration cost is \$30 and includes a Twister Trek t-shirt; awards will be given to

the top three male and top three female runners.

To register, go online to <https://redlandscenmotive.com/events/register/redlands-community-college-inaugural-5k>.

Read *The Piedmont-Surrey Gazette* online at piedmontnews.com for updates to local news and sports.



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